

Application No. 10/726,115
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 have been amended to make minor grammatical improvements and to correct minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. And it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1-7 are not related to patentability, and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

Claim 8 has been added to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the hoist is provided at a rear end of the upper revolving superstructure, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 9, line 16 to page 10, line 17 (see also Fig. 2).

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-7 and the addition of claim 8 be approved and entered.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 5,120,186 ("Jorgenson") or USP 3,722,707 ("Hedeen et al") with USP 4,191,502 ("Komatsu"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

On pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that neither Jorgenson nor Hedeen et al disclose a pulley block which is attached to the boom through a universal joint. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Komatsu to supply the missing teaching of Jorgenson and Hedeen et al.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Komatsu merely discloses a structure wherein a universal joint 17 is provided between each swivel pulley 15p and 15s and the top of a boom 7 (see column 4, lines 6-29). In Komatsu, moreover, the wire cable which is attached to the tackle block 11 for hoisting a load is not wound around with pulley 15p or pulley 15s. And it is respectfully pointed out that Komatsu does not disclose a universal coupling mechanism between the tackle block 10 and the boom 7.

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, the pulley block is attached to the boom through a universal joint, and the hoisting accessory is hung by a wire rope that is paid out from the hoist and wound around the pulley block. That is, the pulley block is provided in the

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hoisting assembly between the boom and the hoisting accessory, and is attached to the boom by the universal joint. With this structure, even when pipelaying is carried out on a slope, the wire rope is wound around the pulley block properly.

It is respectfully submitted that the structure disclosed in Komatsu, whereby pulleys 15p and 15s are provided on outrigger port arms 5p and 5s, and connected to tackles 16p and 16s which are in turn connected by universal coupling mechanisms to the boom 7, does not at all correspond to the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in claim 1.

In particular, it is respectfully submitted that Komatsu does not at all disclose, teach or suggest a pulley block attached to the boom through a universal joint, whereby a hoisting accessory is hung by a wire rope that is paid out from the hoist and wound around the pulley block, as according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that even if Jorgenson and Hedeem et al were combinable with Komatsu in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the structure of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed present invention clearly patentably distinguishes over

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Jorgenson, Hedeem et al and Komatsu, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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